VI. *Part of a Letter from* Mr. Halley *at* Cheſter, October 26th, 1696. *giving an Account of an Animal reſembling a Whelp voided* per Anum, *by a Male Greyhound, and of a* Roman *Altar found there*, &c.

THE Account the Society had from Dr. *Wallis* about a Year ſince of a Greyhound Dog, that voided an Animal, reſembling a Whelp *per anum*, as ſtrange and incredible as it may ſeem, is yet here ſtedfaſtly believed; and the Creature was kept for ſome time in Spirit of Wine, having lived for ſome ſhort time after it came into the World: and it was ſeen alive by Mr. *Roberts* of the Society, then in *Cheſter*. They ſay it exactly reſembled a Greyhound-Whelp, and had on its ſide a large ſpot, in the ſame place as the Dog it proceeded from, had ſuch another; and that with it was voided a whitiſh mucous Matter, ſo that the People here will not permit me to queſtion the truth thereof. Mr. *Roberts* who ſaw it at firſt, can beſt judge what Credit this uncouth Story Merits. But this is certain, That it coſt the Dog his Life, to gratifie the Curioſity of ſome Gentlemen here, who Diſſected him, but were diſappointed of their Expectations. For my own part, as I am determined *nihil temere credere*; ſo on the other hand, as I dare not pretend to limit the Powers of Nature, I ſuſpend my Opinion, laying only before you what credible Witneſſes do aſſert.

I this Morning got a ſight of an Altar-piece, dug up here about three Years ſince, and took the Inſcription thereof which is pretty entire, but roughly cut in the Stone of the place, which is ſoft and moldring

moldring, nor capable of long continuance when it is expoſed to the Air: It has the following Inſcription.

PRO. SAL. DOMIN
....IM.N N INVI
CTISSIMORVM
AVGG. GENIOLOCI
FLAVIVS LONG—*I ſuppoſe* VS *there*
TRIB. MIL. LEG XX. *not being room*
LONGINUS FLA *for* INVS.
VIVS DOMO
SAMOSATA
V. S.

By the Title of *Domini noſtri* given to the Emperors, it appears, that this Inſcription was of the *Bas Empire*, not before *Dioclefian*, nor yet ſo late as *Theodoſius*, it being Pagan. The Stone it ſelf is about Thirty two Inches high, Sixteen in breadth, and Nine thick; On the one end is Engraven, not very curiouſly, the Reſemblance of a Genius, holding a *Cornu Copia*; on the other is a Flower-pot ſomewhat better performed, but a little endamaged by the ſoftneſs of the Stone. The backſide oppoſite to the Inſcription, is adorned with a pretty ſort of *Feuillage*, deſigned to fill up the vacant ſpace. On the top in a pretty deep Cavity, is a full Face of a Man, almoſt ſuch as they Paint the Sun or Full Moon withal, with a Cap upon his Head, of which as yet I cannot comprehend the Deſign; I ſubmit it to the Diſquiſition of the Society; and if it be thought requiſite, I will more particularly inſpect and deſcribe this Stone, which is in the Cuſtody of one Mr. *Preſcot* here, a great lover of Antiquity, and who has ſeveral Curioſities by him, which I am promiſed to peruſe.

The Stone of this place, which is ſoft, reddiſh, grit, and very friable, with ſhining Particles intermixt, is very apt to decay with the Weather. ſo that all Old Buildings are very much defaced thereby, and the Walls which are Built thereof, are ſo frequently out of Repair, that they have Officers on purpoſe, whom they call *Murengers*, who do gradually refit them, where they are moſt worn out; in ſome places the Stone is in a manner moulded away like Sammel Bricks in a Wall, leaving the Mortar ſtanding. In theſe Stones, and the Quarries from whence they came. I have diligently ſought for Shells, or other Animal Subſtances, ſuch as are often found in other places, but hitherto have found no ſuch things: But the Stone is generally interſperſt with Pebbles and ſmall Flints, which, as the Stone decays, do diſcover themſelves within it, as if they had been lodged in the Sand, whereof the Stone conſiſts before its Induration.